



Crime Victim Compensation: Information for Hospitals and Medical Providers Serving Victims

Violent crime is a senseless, often random act, and we see far too much of it in today's society. It is no longer enough to ensure that offenders receive the harshest punishment under the law. Victims and their families need our support as they attempt to rebuild lives torn apart by tragedy.

- Attorney General Lisa Madigan

By law, every hospital in Illinois is required to prominently display posters in their emergency rooms informing the public of the Crime Victims Compensation Act.

What is the Crime Victims Compensation Act?

The Illinois Crime Victims Compensation Act provides innocent victims of violent crimes with up to \$27,000 in financial assistance to cope with the out-of-pocket expenses caused by those crimes.

Can a hospital or medical provider apply on a victim's behalf?

No. Only victims of violent crime or their legal representatives can be claimants under the Act. However, the State may make direct payments on a victim's behalf to eligible health care providers.

What happens if the victim has medical bills from more than one provider?

Each health care provider can be paid directly by the State. If the victim's expenses exceed \$27,000, the payouts are prorated to reflect the amount each bill represents in proportion to the victim's total compensable loss.

What if the victim has been awarded the full \$27,000, but a balance is still owed to a provider? Is the victim still liable for the remaining balance?

The victim is liable for any remaining amount owed after compensation provided under the Act has been exhausted. Some medical providers have policies that relieve the victim of the remaining balance after full compensation has been awarded under the Act. Although such a policy is not mandatory, it is encouraged by the Office of the Attorney General.

What happens if the victim incurs additional bills as a result of the crime after the compensation application has been processed?

If the victim has not already been granted the maximum amount allowed under the law, \$27,000, the victim can petition the court to have his or her claim reopened and to have new bills considered for payment.

How does a victim of a violent crime file a claim?

To file a claim, contact the Crime Victims Compensation Bureau at (800) 228-3368.

Who can I contact to learn more about the role of hospitals and medical providers in the Crime Victims Compensation Act?

Please contact Assistant Attorney General Kara Comer at (312) 814-7229, or call the toll-free crime victims assistance line, (800) 228-3368.

To obtain statewide service referrals or check the status of your compensation claim, please contact our office at:

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Visit our Web site at www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov.



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